Duty concession on life saving drugs

†1363. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any concession in customs and excise duty on live saving drugs; and

(b) if so the names of these drugs and what procedure has been followed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has given concessions in customs and excise duty on specified life saving drugs and medicines.

(b) Life saving drugs and medicines covered in List 4 of Notification No. 21/2002-Customs dated 1.3.2002 [GSR No. 118 (E) dated 1.3.2002] as amended, are fully exempt from customs duty. They are also fully exempt from excise duty under Notification No. 6/2002-Central Excise dated 1.3.2002 [GSR No. 127 (E) dated 1.3.2002] as amended. Other life saving drugs or medicines are exempt from customs duties when imported by individuals for personal use, subject to certain conditions.

The concessions for these live saving drugs are given in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

Loan advancement in the North East

1364. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan advanced by the Public Sector Banks in the country in 2002-2003 (State-wise);

(b) the share of the eight North East States out of the advanced loan amount; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to better the position of the North East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The outstanding Gross Bank

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Credit of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs), as on March 2003, was Rs. 5,38,031.20 crores. The share of the North Eastern States was Rs.4,700.86 crores out of this. The State-wise details is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) RBI has been impressing upon the banks to improve the credit flow to the NE region. The banks' performances under Annual Credit Plan as well as the Credit-Deposit Ratio position have been monitored regularly by the Reserve Bank in various fora such as BLBC, DCC and SLBC. A Monitoring Group, under the Chairmanship of Regional Director of RBI for NE States, has also been constituted to review on monthly basis the flow of credit to the Region with special focus on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Micro-Finance through the Self Help Groups (SHGs). The RBI Regional Director for NE States, is in regular contact with all the Chief Secretaries of the Region to sort out problems faced by the States.

Statement

The state wise details of gross bank credit (outstanding) of Public Sector Banks as on March 2003 is as under:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Gross Bank Credit
1.	Haryana	1088822
2.	Himachal Pradesh	227720
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	101243
4.	Punjab	2241662
5.	Rajasthan	1485054
6.	Chandigarh	979221
7.	Delhi	7361165
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	11163
9.	Assam	318617
10.	Manipur	16532
11.	Meghalaya	57904

Sl.No.	Name of State	Gross Bank Credit
12.	Mizoram	14344
13.	Nagaland	15282
14.	Tripura	36244
15.	Bihar	610001
16.	Jharkhand	446375
17.	Orissa	771323
18.	Sikkim	17364
19.	West Bengal	3344269
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	11421
21.	Chhattisgarh	404292
22.	Madhya Pradesh	1566826
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2838132
24.	Uttaranchal	267919
25.	Goa	184838
26.	Gujarat	2715340
27.	Maharashtra	12963405
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4058
29.	Daman & Diu	5051
30.	Andhra Pradesh	3730834
31.	Karnataka	3398076
32.	Kerala	1688274
33.	Tamil Nadu	4824581
34.	Lakshadweep	566
35.	Pondicherry	55205
TOTAL :	ALL INDIA	53803120

Share of North Eastern States in the above is as under

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Grosss Credit	% to all India total
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	11163	0.02
2.	Assam	318617	5.92
3.	Manipur	16532	0.03
4.	Meghalaya	57904	0.11
5.	Mizoram	14344	0.02
6.	Nagaland	15282	0.02
7.	Tripura	36244	0.07
	TOTAL:	470086	0.87

Rate of Interest on savings

1365. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prevailing rate of interest on savings bank account is less than the rate of inflation;

(b) if so, what will be its impact on small savings if such a situation continues;

(c) whether Government are considering higher rate of interest to encourage savings for future security;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Reserve Bank of India, the present interest rate on savings deposit rate is well aligned with the small savings deposits and other short term deposit rates like, Post Office savings, National